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Japan Today's Sachie Kanda and Hiroko Sumikura chilled out in Yoyogi Park to ask:

Should smoking be banned in public spaces such as restaurants?

"I am a smoker, so it's better if they don't ban smoking in public spaces. But the majority rules, I guess, so if there are more non-smokers in the population, I suppose it's alright if smoking is banned in public places. I do think that smokers should follow basic rules. I smoke a pack a day, inside the office and when I go out for a drink. I remember once whenI was in a pachinko parlor, the guy next to me gave me a disgusting look. I feel bad for non-smokers in restaurants."
- Koichi Aratake, 40

"I don't smoke, so I am happy with the idea. I don't have any particular reaction toward smokers, but I feel that more smokers are concerned about their health than non-smokers. It's only recently that I have started to feel annoyed by cigarette smoke. Restaurants and other places have only just started to have smoking and non-smoking areas, so I think that's the reason why I started to notice the smoke. But in restaurants, if people do not like the idea of having separate sections for smokers and non-smokers, they shouldn't do it."
- Ryo Sakai, 35

"I smoke, so that won't be good for me. But I don't like people smoking while walking. They should smoke in appropriate places. Having said that, there are not many spaces left for smokers. In my office, there is a glass room for smokers. It's like a zoo and is always full of smoke. They should create more spaces for smokers."
- Mikako Urushima, 28

"I don't smoke, but I don't care one way or another. I just keep away from smoke. Although people around me smoke, I never did because I can't afford to waste money on cigarettes. I think people who smoke must be rich. I release my stress by playing the djembe (African drums)."
- Yusuke Kiuchi, 24

"I don't smoke, so I think it's good idea to keep the environment clean. I don't object to people smoking, but they should care more about their health and that of the people around them. It is exasperating when you are inside somewhere and there is no proper partition between smoking and non-smoking sections. Smoking while walking is also dangerous, especially for children."
- Yukie Gosaki, 25

"I do not smoke, so I totally support the idea. In places like cafes and tea salons, it is understandable that people smoke. In restaurants, though, smoke is bothersome and disgusting when you're trying to eat. But basically, I do not go to restaurants where there are a lot of people smoking, especially because I have a young son."
- Ayumi Adachi, 29

"I don't smoke, but I don't have any anger toward smokers. There are people who smoke to release stress, but we all have our own way of releasing stress. However, I wouldn't smoke and damage my health just to release stress."
- Keiichi Takagi, 25

"I don't smoke, so I like the idea. I really don't like smoking. It bugs me when smoke gets in my face and when I get ashes on my clothes from people smoking while walking. I think they should ban smoking while walking. It's no use separating smoking and non-smoking areas in most places now. The smoke just drifts over. They should have proper partitions."
- Tomomi Ishii, 26

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